

Subject: Comments from ASTM International on WTC Investigation Draft Final Reports
From: "Bardi, Janice" <jbardi@astm.org>
To: <wtc@nist.gov>
Cc: "O'Toole, Thomas" <totoole ...snip... James" <jthomas@astm.org>

Dear Mr. Cauffman:

Please see attached letter with comments from Jim Thomas, ASTM International President on the NIST NCSTAR 1 Final Report of the National Construction Safety Team on the Collapses of the World Trade Center Towers (Draft).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Thomas at 610-832-9598 or jthomas@astm.org.

Janice Bardi

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August 1, 2005

WTC Technical Information Repository
Attention: Mr. Stephen Cauffman
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Stop 8610
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8610

Subject: Public Comments on World Trade Center Investigation Draft Final Reports

Dear Mr. Cauffman:

On behalf of the members and Board of ASTM International, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the National Construction Safety Team of the National Institute of Standards and Technology for their comprehensive efforts to reconstruct the collapses of the World Trade Center (WTC) towers and to produce a final report and recommendations.

For over 100 years, ASTM International Committee E05 on Fire Standards has provided valuable evaluation tools to advance the cause of fire safety. Today, ASTM E05 has over 500 dedicated volunteers and jurisdiction of 55 standards to meet the needs of fire safety. We share the goal of fostering a deeper understanding of fire safety issues amongst the construction, building, and public safety communities and look forward to working with NIST to achieve such an important goal.

ASTM International standards are widely used by the building construction industry around the world. In addition, thousands of ASTM standards are referenced in building codes. In response to the recommendations from the NIST Report of the National Construction Safety Team on the Collapse of the World Trade Center Towers, ASTM has commissioned an analysis of the NIST report as it relates to ASTM's standards.

It is expected that this analysis of the NIST recommendations and the resulting report will provide timely recommendations for standards development initiatives for ASTM Committee E05 and other ASTM technical committees. By commissioning this analysis, ASTM will be able to continue its tradition of quickly addressing the needs of standards users in a timely fashion by providing state-of-the-art standards. Specifically, the review will identify items in the NIST report that bear upon the following areas of application:

- The development or revision of ASTM standards intended for analysis & assessment of structural fire protection & fire resistance of building assemblies.
- The development or revision of ASTM standards which deal with buildings, structures, building materials, building assemblies, interior finish, furnishings & contents.
- The development or revision of ASTM standards intended to measure & describe the response of building materials, products & assemblies to sources of heat &/or flame under controlled conditions, including fire growth rate & products of combustion, e.g. smoke & toxic gas.
- Evaluation of E05 standards related to computer fire modeling and determine whether new standards or revisions to existing standards are needed.

- The development or revision of fire test methods for measuring fire responses and properties of materials, products and assemblies when exposed to laboratory sources of heat, or flame, or both, especially input data from computer fire modeling.
- Fire-related research relevant to E05 activities.
- Any additional analysis of ASTM standards.

It is anticipated that a formal report will be presented at the next Committee E05 meeting in December 2005, in Dallas, Texas. Like all ASTM International technical committee meetings, these Committee E05 meetings are open to the public. Interested parties are welcome to attend and contribute to the enhancement of existing standards or the development of new methods, guides, and practices.

Again, I thank NIST for its leadership in this important area of fire safety. Please feel free to contact me directly at (610) 832-9598 should you need additional information or if ASTM International can be of assistance to your efforts. For specific information concerning the work of ASTM Committee E05 on Fire Standards, please contact Mr. Thomas O'Toole at (610) 832-9739.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Thomas".

James A. Thomas
President, ASTM International